

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
April 8, 2025

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

Mark NeSmith, Chairman Dist. 4

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5

Moses Gross, Dist. 2

Wiley Grady, Dist. 6

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Asst. E-911 Director Melany Harper, Sheriff Tim Watkins, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

News/Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order, and Mike Keown, Pastor for Little Ochlocknee Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025 Board Meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 8, 2025 Board Meeting. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Greg Thweat, Lyndall Knight, and Stephen NeSmith who on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4995 presented Fire/EMT and E-911 awards and challenge coins to Mark Sealy and April Robinson respectively. Every year the VFW presents awards to individuals in Public Service who protect life and property and who exemplifies personal courage. They are dedicated and consistently demonstrate excellence in their duties and profession.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Krista Joiner of 162 Rocky Lane, Carol Burges of 725 N. Mitchell Street and Marianne Spangle of 328 N Pinetree Blvd. Thomasville, Georgia who shared their dissatisfaction with Animal Control. They described numerous attacks on beloved pets and humans by dangerous dogs. They stated that these are not strays and have given addresses to Animal Control. Chairman NeSmith recognized Frances Henderson-Goldberg of 627 N. Dawson, Thomasville, Georgia who stated that she had a pet duck that was killed in front of her by a dangerous dog and often sees the same dogs roaming the properties of the History Center and the Lapham

Patterson House. She also wanted to express her concern over the speed of drivers on the recently paved East Webster Road, Thomasville, Georgia

Committee Reports

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Warren who reported to the Board that he is working on rewriting an airport contract that makes the City of Thomasville/Airport Authority "sole providers" for grant application and administration. The request was initiated by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The current contract is 50 plus years old.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel for \$2.3973/gal on April 1, 2025, from Petroleum Products. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to The Scruggs Company for road resurfacing (Hansell Chastain, Horseshoe Circle, and Lower Cairo Rd) for \$782,613.52 Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to declare vehicle (2015 Type 1 Terra Star International (Taylor-Made) 148,000 – Unit 15-322) as surplus and authorize its sell on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste Tyler, County Clerk